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WESTERN RENDEZVOUS OF ART MUCH MORE THAN HORSES AND RIDERS

One of the first things that kindles the imaginations of those who attend their first Western Rendezvous of Art in Helena is the breadth and scope of the artwork that goes far beyond the horses and riders that many associate with traditional western art.

The show includes works of impressionism and realism by some of the top contemporary living artists in the country, from still life and portraits to western themes there is something for every art lover.

The 29th Western Rendezvous of Art in Helena Aug. 16th-19th features 54 of the finest artists from across the nation, who will gather to show off their work inspired by diverse subjects from across the nation, Mexico and as far away as Tibet.

The Montana Historical Society and the Helena Civic Center Board team up to bring the best in art to Montana each year.

“Since Rendezvous began in Helena 29 years ago, it has become an eagerly awaited tradition for art lovers from far and wide,” Rendezvous Co-Chair Joann Christnacht said.

For those who like entertainment with their art, this year’s Rendezvous features a gifted “blues, boogie and ragtime” piano player, who will show how his love of music and painting bring rhythm to his work. Northwest Group Rendezvous Artist Joseph Bohler will present a special program “My Dynamic Duo – Painting & Piano Playing.”

Nationally known Cowboy poet Mike Logan, who lists among his many accomplishments the 2006 Academy of Western Artists’ Will Rogers Male Cowboy Poet

of the Year Award, will present another entertaining and informative program “Charlie Russell Paintings & Poetry.”

“These two seminar programs will show the variety of ways that people get inspiration for their own personal art form,” Society Special Projects Coordinator Sue Near said. “For Joe that includes music, and for Mike that includes his poetry that is influenced by the art and history of the West.”

In addition to transforming the Helena Civic Center into one of the best art galleries in the nation, the four-day event features a Quick Draw and auction at the historic Sieben ranch, a traditional western barbecue, a gala banquet, entertainment and, of course, an action packed art sale.

“From the kickoff Thursday evening barbecue at Montana’s Museum to the Sunday morning Farewell Brunch and Last Chance Art Sale, Rendezvous is non-stop fun for all ages,” Civic Center Board President Judy Kline said.

Proceeds from the event go for improvements to the Helena Civic Center and to the Society’s new art acquisition fund.

To view this year’s art, for more information on events, or to register, go online at www.westrendart.org, email westrndz@aol.com, or call 406-442-4263